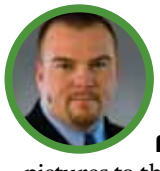
GREAT GADGETS

What the tech experts want this holiday season. By Dan Heilman

MATTHEW GISSENTANNA
EDITOR IN CHIEF, GADGET UNIVERSITY

Apple iPhone 4S (Starting at $199) "It has the same physical design as the original iPhone 4, but it has a dual-core A5 processor, making it twice as fast and seven times better handling graphics. It's a world phone capable of handling both GSM and CDMA networks. The 8-megapixel camera is one huge improvement. It offers sharper images with better colors at a higher resolution, and it is one of the fastest cameras in the industry."

Canon EOS Rebel T3i Digital SLR ($899.99) "This is the cream of the crop for great performance on a consumer-level DSLR. It features a large 18-megapixel sensor and an 18- to 55-millimeter lens. This combination won't leave any memory uncaptured. You can also shoot movies in full 1080p quality at 25 frames a second. The three-inch TFT LCD monitor allows you to tweak your perfect shot before you take it and you can shoot pictures in a RAW format and edit later with the included software."



DON MARTELLI
EXECUTIVE EDITOR, TECHNORATI.COM

CEIVA Connected Digital Photo Frame ($127.99–$147.99) "You can send pictures to this photo frame via email, Facebook, mobile and desktop apps. You can even share pictures with other CEIVA frame owners. Imagine being able to update a frame for your grandparents so they don't have to do it themselves."

Clockwise from far left: Xbox 360; CEIVA Connected Digital Photo Frame; Amazon Kindle Fire; iPhone 4s; ElliptiGO; BodyMedia FIT LINK; Nikon 1 J1.

ILLUSTRATION: RANDALL NELSON. PHOTO: AMAZON.COM, INC. (KINDLE FIRE). ALL OTHER PRODUCT PHOTOS COURTESY OF MANUFACTURERS.

SCOTT LOWE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR, IGN.COM

PlayStation Vita (Starting at $249) "The PlayStation Vita will compete with my iPhone for on-the-go play next year. Unlike the Nintendo 3DS or a smartphone, the Vita is all about power. It plays high-definition games that rival consoles in terms of graphics. I'll be able to play Call of Duty, Uncharted or BioShock, anywhere, anytime. All that power comes at a cost and it only has a battery life up to five hours, but those five hours will be awesome."

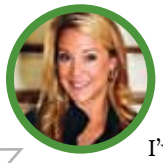
Xbox 360 (Starting at $199.99) "When I'm at home, the Xbox 360 is my gaming hardware of choice. It has a great combination of gaming and entertainment options."

JOHN LAPOSKY
MANAGING EDITOR, THIS WEEK IN CONSUMER ELECTRONICS

Sonomax sculpted eers ($199.99–$299.99) "Custom-fitted in-ear earphones have been available for years, but required a fitting session with a professional audiologist and usually had a $1,000-plus price tag. This do-it-yourself fitting kit produces custom ear buds in four minutes."

What I ***Really*** *Want*

Headphone Cord Detangler: *"I want a retractable headphone doodad I can keep plugged into my iPhone. Push a button and you can pull it out. Push it again and it retracts, like a measuring tape. This is what Bluetooth is for, but I like my noise-canceling ear buds better."*



JENNIFER JOLLY
TECH LIFESTYLE EDITOR, TECCA

Vizio XVT3D6SP (Price TBA) "This is the hottest TV to hit the market this year. I've waited for it since the 2011 Consumer Electronics Show. It has passive 3-D, LED backlighting, integration with other Vizio gadgets, your favorite streaming entertainment built in and embedded OnLive gaming."

Amazon Kindle Fire ($199) "I love my iPad 2, but I'm also addicted to my Kindle. I use the Kindle app on my iPad, but I can't order anything from the iPad without going separately to Amazon. While it's totally indulgent to think about owning two tablets, I'm dying to get my hands on this."

ElliptiGO ($1,799–$3,499) "This outdoor elliptical 'bicycle' is a great way to keep fit outdoors, but put less stress and strain on aging joints."

Help! I'm a Gadget Addict. //

Sherry Turkle, *an MIT professor and clinical psychologist, investigates the downside of our collective love affair with our devices in* Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other. *We put down our devices (for a moment) and asked the good doctor for advice.*

Why do we love our devices so much?
No one wants to be alone. Technology offers us the possibility of never being lonely. Our devices offer us the illusion of companionship without the demands of friendship.

Why is constant connectivity bad?
Many of us get anxious if we are not constantly connected to others via the Web and mobile devices. In many ways, we are not as autonomous as we used to be, and that is to our detriment. You cannot really collaborate with others unless you come to the table with thoughts and feelings you have developed independently.

How can we have a healthier relationship with technology?
Ask yourself, "Is this a moment when the technology is ruling me or I am ruling the technology?" Are you checking your device for some real purpose or out of habit? Is your device interfering with your ability to live in the moment? When we can develop the discipline to recognize those moments and do something about them, then we are in control.

How do we set boundaries?
Create dedicated times and spaces when you put the gadgets down. Begin with mealtimes, which should be time for conversation. Try experimenting with Internet sabbaticals—one night or one weekend when you disconnect and spend time with your family or by yourself. We need to start a dialogue about how to use technology more mindfully. That is where we will find a better future. // *—Aaron Dalton*

ALL PRODUCT PHOTOS COURTESY OF MANUFACTURERS.

Sky Picks //
More cool new products you won't want to miss.

Garmin Forerunner 610 ($399.99) This touchscreen GPS-enabled runner watch tracks your heart rate, pace, distance, time and personal bests—and can guide you back to the starting point of your run.

Sonos PLAY:3 ($299) The best thing about streaming tunes on this wireless hi-fi? You can control it from your iPhone, iPad or Android.

Toshiba Qosmio F755 ($1,699.99) Finally, a laptop that's capable of displaying glasses-free 3-D and 2-D content at the same time on one screen.

JOBY GorillaPod Hybrid ($39.95) Perhaps the most versatile (and certainly the coolest looking) tripod for compact system cameras.

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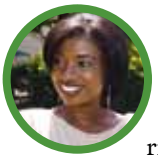
What I *Really* Want

Kid 2.0: *"We need a cranial implant that monitors a child's behavior and sends instant alerts when trouble beckons. Just imagine: Built-in GPS tracking lets you know when they're safely playing at a friend's house versus making a surprise break for the mall, while text messages notify you when they post your home address to Facebook. Best of all: Streaming video options let you determine whose idea it really was to T.P. the neighbor's yard."*

ITAI DANAN
EDITOR, NEOCAMERA

Sony NEX-7 ($1,349.99) "This mirrorless camera follows previous NEX models, but adds awesome direct manual controls. It uses the same APS-C sensor used in most DSLRs while being packaged in a body a fraction of their size. Sony even managed to squeeze in the highest resolution viewfinder ever made."

Nikon 1 V1 and Nikon 1 J1 ($899, $649) "These cameras use a sensor that's smaller than a DSLR's but bigger than compact cameras', while achieving a much smaller size. The new sensor has a phase-detection autofocus system that will apparently let it focus faster than even the top-the-line Nikon DSLRs."



LATOSHA JOHNSON
BLOGGER

BodyMedia FIT LINK ($249.99) "This armband monitors how many calories you consume and burn throughout the day, even when you're sleeping. It also gives you the ability to monitor that information via iPhone or Android apps. Many similar devices require you to log into a computer to see that data."

Olympus PEN series ($499.99–$899.99) "The cameras in this series are lightweight and come with extensive editing options, which is great for bloggers because it reduces the amount of work needed to edit images and videos."

SCOTT STEINBERG
CEO OF TECHSAVVY GLOBAL, HOST OF FAMILY TECH

LG Cinema LW6500 3D TV ($4,500) "This 65-inch beauty offers one of the strongest cases yet for home 3-D viewing and is built to use the more affordable and comfortable 'passive' 3-D glasses. It's capable of theater-quality 3-D visuals and upscaling of standard 2-D videos so that you won't die of boredom waiting for the latest blockbuster to make its way to DVD. Four pairs of 3-D glasses come with a set."

Samsung Galaxy Tab 7.7 (U.S. release pending) "It's the first tablet with a 7.7-inch Super AMOLED Plus display for killer photo, app and video viewing, runs on the ultra-versatile Android 3.2 operating system and weighs 12 ounces, making it a travel-friendly alternative to traditional laptops. It has dual cameras for videoconferencing and—hallelujah for frequent fliers—10 hours of battery life."

STEPHEN REGENOLD
EDITOR, GEARJUNKIE.COM

ContourGPS ($299) "This ruggedized helmet camera has built-in GPS tracking. It geo-tags your video so you can view footage and see it side by side with a map. It's great for adventurers who want to see what they've done and where they did it."

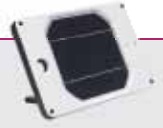
DeLorme inReach ($249.95 + satellite service, starting at $9.95/month) "This two-way GPS device sends and receives messages via GPS satellites—a first! The GPS unit pairs with a smartphone via Bluetooth. You can use it to type on your phone and then load text messages to the GPS, which sends your text data to a network of roving satellites and then back to Earth to connect with the Internet or the recipient's cellphone. It lets you update your Facebook or Twitter pages from the most remote corners of the planet."

Prediction // *The gender gadget gap will shrink.*

Contrary to conventional wisdom, women spend a lot of money on consumer electronics ($68 billion a year), and that figure will very likely grow. The rate at which women adopt new technologies is already on par with men and has even surpassed men in many areas. Yet there's a big difference in how women shop for gadgets, says Cliff Courtney of Zimmerman Advertising in Fort Lauderdale: "Women are more patient about finding the right price and they insist on ease of use."

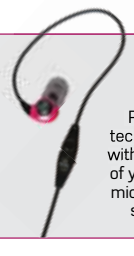
ALL PRODUCT PHOTOS COURTESY OF MANUFACTURERS.

Powerbag ($139.99-$249.99) This versatile bag's hidden removable battery has enough juice to simultaneously power or recharge four different portable electronic devices.



JOOS Orange ($149) This personal solar charger can reportedly transform sunlight into stored electrical energy even while submerged underwater.

Motorola Talkabout MS350R ($99.99) Ideal for when your destination is *really* off the beaten track, these rugged, waterproof two-way radios have a range of up to 35 miles and even a flashlight.



dB Logic EP-200 earphones ($49.99) Pressure-limiting sound technology spares your ears without distorting the quality of your tunes, while an inline microphone lets you cleanly switch to fielding calls.

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SMART HOME SAFE HOME

Vivant Go!Control panel (left); ADT Pulse product suite (below).

Today's secure home is wired to watch itself. By Aaron Dalton

Until recently, having a home security system meant setting an alarm and praying it never went off. Today's homeowners can not only use their smartphones to call up live video of their home when an alarm is triggered, but they can also control many of their home's non-security functions remotely.

"The Internet and mobile devices have fueled a revolution in the home security industry," says Jay Kenny of Alarm.com, which provides some of the technology infrastructure for more than 3,000 security dealers, including Protection 1 and Vivint.

How can technology help protect your home?

- **Protect** your artwork, electronics and other valuables by installing sensors that are fitted with accelerometers. When the items are moved, you're alerted.

- **Lock** and unlock doors remotely. Or you can use your smartphone to control lights, curling irons and other small appliances while you're away. Vivint products do all this, plus its Go!Control panel has a two-way voice feature that lets you communicate directly with the company's monitoring center during an emergency.

- **Adjust** the lights and the thermostat. Vivint's Energy Star templates allow homeowners to automatically program heating and cooling schedules. Craig Pyle, Vivint's director of product management, says customers save an average of $20 to $25 per month in energy costs.

- **Keep tabs** on loved ones and service workers by requesting an email or text notification when your child arrives home from school or when the housekeeper accesses the house. The security industry giant ADT, for example, bundles home security and automation features into ADT Pulse, a touchscreen control panel that includes remote video monitoring, light and thermostat controls, flood sensors and other bells and whistles.

- **D.I.Y.** With providers such as FrontPoint, you install the security hardware yourself. For just HD video surveillance, there's the Dropcam HD (for $8.95 a month you can access seven days of cloud-based video storage) and Logitech Alert, which charges $79.95 a year to access video from devices that are outside your home network.

Q: What's the best way to choose a home security system?

A: "Choose a system that will protect all your doors and all your windows. A lot of people forget to protect their windows. When you buy homeowner insurance polices, you don't buy half policies. Same with your alarm system. Choose a company that's going to give you the best equipment and the best value to really protect your home—not part of it, all of it." — *Thad Paschall, CEO of Protect America*

PHOTOS: COURTESY VIVANT (GO! CONTROL PANEL); COURTESY ADT (PULSE PRODUCTS).

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